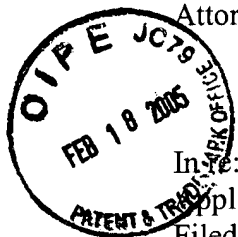


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re:	Diessner, et al.	Confirmation No.:	4409
Appl No.:	10/731,829	Group Art Unit:	2839
Filed:	December 9, 2003	Examiner:	Javaid H. Nasri
For:	AN INTEGRATION AREA, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING INTERCONNECTIONS AMONG COMPONENTS		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

This document responds to the Official Action dated January 13, 2005, in which the Examiner has required an election of one of fifteen species. As noted below, Applicant elects the species of Figure 6 if the claims are subsequently amended so as to no longer include a generic claim. Currently, however, Applicants submit that Claims 1-3, 12, 13, 17-21, 30, 31, 35, 36 and 39-41 are generic. Moreover, the claims specifically drawn to the species of Figure 6 are Claims 5, 23 and 38.

Although Applicants have made an election of species as required, Applicants submit that the manner in which the species were identified is incorrect. In this regard, Applicants concur that Figures 5-14 and 16 depict alternative interconnection techniques and might therefore be considered to represent different species. However, Figures 2-4 are not directed to different species of the present invention, as any one of the interconnection techniques depicted in Figures 5-14 and 16 could be employed in conjunction with the integration areas of Figures 2-4. In this regard, Figures 2-4 depict the system of integration areas that provide interconnections within and between connector inserts without specification as to the particular interconnection technique being utilized. Finally, Figure 15 does not depict an alternative interconnection technique as to Figures 5-14 and 16, but instead depict alternative types of conductive pins that could be utilized in conjunction with the embodiment of Figure 14. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the identification of the species be reconfigured to identify the species depicted in Figures 5-14 and 16, and not the subject matter of Figures 2-4 and 15 as described above.

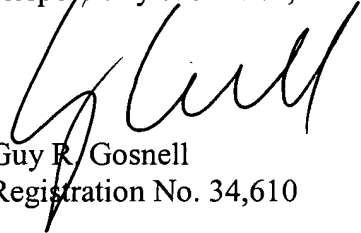
Although Applicants have elected the species of Figure 6, Applicants expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the invention of the other species if the claims of the present application should ever be limited to the elected species. Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with

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Reply to Election Requirement of January 13, 2005

respect to the examination of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

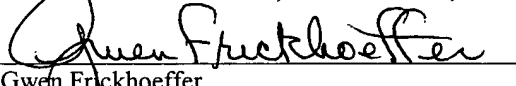
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 14, 2005


Gwen Frickhoeffter